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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/825,621 | 04/16/2004 | Norbert Erhard | 028972.53932US | 7885 |

23911 7590 05/15/2006

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EXAMINER

LIN, ING HOUR

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1725

DATE MAILED: 05/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/825,621

Applicant(s)

ERHARD ET AL.

Examiner

Ing-Hour Lin

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 and 7-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 and 7-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
3. Claims 2, 4, 7-8, 11-12, 14, 16-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wollin in view of Hanano.

Wollin (col. 4, lines 51+) substantially teaches the claimed spray head, comprising support arm 6, distributor block (adapter 7) including vertical through-passages and transverse media passages, connecting plates (adapter modulus 8), connecting pieces (distribution modulus 12, distribution plate 9) and nozzle 4, wherein conduits for media, such as release agents, spray and blow air or control air, are provided in the individual plates and modules (col. 5, lines 40+).

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Wollin fails to teach the use of a plurality of distributor block placed one against the other in the direction of movement of the arm. However, Hanano (col. 3, lines 66+ and Fig. 9) teaches the use of a plurality of distributor blocks (vertical through-passages 563 having height of a plurality of distributor blocks) for the purpose of providing a plurality of transverse passage connected to a plurality of spray nozzles 534 of different planes height related to the sprayed mold surfaces. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide Wollin the use of a plurality of distributor block as taught by Hanano in order to effectively provide a plurality of transverse passages connected to a plurality of spray nozzles 534 of different planes height related to the sprayed mold surfaces.

4. Claims 3, 5, 13 and 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wollin in view of Hanano and further in view of DE 4016377.

Wollin in view of Hanano fails to teach the use of connection block.

However, DE '377 (col. 2, lines 30+) teaches the use of connection block 7 in double faced spray nozzle head for the purpose of adjusting the effective distance between the nozzle head and the sprayed target. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide Wollin in view of Hanano the use of connection block as taught by DE '377 in order to effectively adjust the distance between the nozzle head and the sprayed target.

5. Claims 9-10 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wollin in view of Hanano and further in view of DE 3741474.

Wollin in view of Hanano fails to teach the use of angled connection end piece.

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However, DE '474 (col. 1, lines 65+) teaches the use of angled connection end piece 34 equipped with nozzles on two end faces for the purpose of effectively spraying the mold surfaces. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide Wollin in view of Hanano the use of angled connection end piece as taught by DE '474 in order to effectively spray the mold surfaces.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 2/17/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments do not comply with 37 CFR 1.111(c) because they do not clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. Further, they do not show how the amendments avoid such references or objections. Examiner notes that in claims 11 and 19, the distinct property of asymmetric passage is not well claimed because the plural passages associated with a rotatable connecting plate is missing. It is important to claim each connecting plate 8 has two passages (see Figs. 1-4) and a passage is located on each side of a longitudinal central plane 11 before and after rotating each connecting plate in order to make the claimed asymmetric passage corresponding to the longitudinal central plane meaningful, wherein each passage is designed to be asymmetric to each other or non-image symmetry.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ing-Hour Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272-1180. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pat Ryan can be reached on (571) 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

I.H.L.

I.-H. Lin

5-12-06

KEVIN KERNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER*Kevin Kerns 5/12/06*